

January 2014

Howdy runners,

Our club awards and elections meeting is coming up this Thursday, Jan. 16, from 6-8 pm at McKenzie's near the intersection of Hwy. 75 and 11th St. in Huntsville. I hope you can make it. McKenzie's has lots of good dinner choices, meat or meatless, and we will have our own room in the back of the restaurant all to ourselves.

Furthermore, the officers decided to take some of the money that we won in the "10 Gallon Cup" and put it toward spoiling you at this meeting. Thus we will be buying several ** desserts ** such as ** pudding ** and ** cobbler ** to serve you at this meeting! Plus the club will be paying for your drinks as well -- just tell them you are with the club and they will hand you a drink cup free.

We will eat from 6-7 pm, with the meeting following from 7-8 pm. You are welcome to attend just the meeting, or to attend without eating, or to come get dinner after 6 pm if that's what you prefer. Our awards committee of Jacob Gautreaux, Jill Blake, Glenn Green, and Leah Koester has been working hard to determine our award winners, and I know you won't want to miss that.

For our officer elections, most of our officers have expressed a willingness to serve another year. However, I will be vacating the presidency after three years in that position. It is really too much to serve both as club president and to also direct the Huntsville Half Marathon, which is typically the way it has been. This is a way to break those jobs apart -- I intend to continue directing the Half Marathon, and just step away from the duties of president.

Right now we have not had anyone come forward and express interest in taking that position. Please give it some thought, and contact me if you think you might be interested. You will have the best-darn officer group ever to work with, plus you won't have to worry about directing the Huntsville Half Marathon.

I mean that about our officers. I have truly enjoyed working with each one over the last three years: Steve Bickford, Donna Fabian, Ken Johnson, Jan Parks, and Courtney West. You guys have been terrific! Everyone in this club has been so supportive, so helpful, and so willing to contribute, that it is made the last three years a pleasure. I am very proud to have represented Seven Hills in the community and can tell you that name (Seven Hills, not mine!!) commands a lot of respect.

Ken Johnson has been featured in a wonderful article in Postcards magazine this month, and he and Leah Koester together were featured in a great write-up in the Huntsville Item about marathoning: Leah completed her first, and Ken his 100th. Here are the links, including a wonderful picture of Leah at the finish line:

<http://postcardslive.com/fullscreen/jan2014pw/>

<http://www.itemonline.com/sports/x1186909393/Huntsville-s-Ken-Johnson-completes-100th-marathon>

<http://www.itemonline.com/sports/x1186912898/RUNNING-SHORTS-Leah-Koester-completes-her-first-marathon>

In more good news, Cheri Villines continues to recover from her cancer treatment last year. She is doing well and we may see her at some club events this winter or spring!

Finally, January begins our membership drive. Most memberships expire at the end of the year. You can renew by sending \$7 for an individual membership, and \$10 for a family membership, to P. O. Box 6804, Huntsville, TX, 77342. You can also renew at the business meeting or at any club run, and you are welcome to renew for multiple years if you wish. If you are unsure whether your membership has expired, please contact Jan Parks at smellyshoes@cebridge.net and she'll be happy to let you know.

With so many capable and talented members, this club is in good shape going forward. Remember, no officer should, or will want to, serve forever--it is healthy to have a little turnover each year. At some point your turn to serve may arrive! It will be an opportunity to support the running community in our area, which does so much for so many people, such as our Runners of the Month, Cindy Pate, Lara McCain and Jason Wallace, Jose Torres, Kas Kramer, Brent and Susan Butler, Jose Moreno, and so many more. Doing so over the last three years has been my privilege.

Thank you everyone and see you on Thursday. Happy Running! Darren.